



HR0167

LRB102 17800 ECR 24125 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Over 20,000 black Americans trained at Montford
3 Point, fought honorably and with distinction, and broke down
4 barriers of discrimination to become the first black Americans
5 to serve in the Marine Corps; and

6 WHEREAS, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive
7 Order 8802 on June 25th, 1941, banning discrimination because
8 of race, creed, color, or national origin in all government
9 agencies; and

10 WHEREAS, The first recruits reported to the segregated
11 Camp Montford Point, a small section of land on Camp Lejeune,
12 North Carolina, on August 26th, 1942; and

13 WHEREAS, The men of the 51st Composite Defense Battalion
14 distinguished themselves as the finest artillery gunners in
15 the Marine Corps, breaking almost every accuracy record in
16 training; and

17 WHEREAS, Private Kenneth Tibbs was the first black Marine
18 to lose his life on June 15th, 1944; and

19 WHEREAS, Black marines served valiantly in the Pacific
20 Theatre of Operations during World War II and participated in

1 battles on Saipan, Guam, and Peleliu; and

2 WHEREAS, On July 26, 1948, President Harry S. Truman
3 signed Executive Order 9981 establishing the President's
4 Committee on Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the
5 Armed Services, committing the government to integrating the
6 segregated military; and

7 WHEREAS, Camp Montford Point was decommissioned on
8 September 9, 1949 because of improved inclusion brought forth
9 by the courageous service of the Montford Point Marines;
10 therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
12 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
13 we honor the brave marines who trained at Montford Point and
14 were trailblazers who broke down barriers within the Marine
15 Corps; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That we acknowledge the Montford Point Marines
17 for their heroic service and therefore declare August 26, 2021
18 Montford Point Marines Day.